OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH
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Contrary to popular belief, education today is a privilege rather than a right. Despite the bright future promised by free tertiary education for colleges and universities, there are still concerns that the Philippines needs to attend to.

The incidence of out of school youth (OSY) has decreased, though not fully eliminated. The rate of OSY to total number of children between the ages of 5 and 15 decreased from 11.7% in 2008 to 5.21% by 2012. However, there are still areas within the country that has exhibited high OSY incidence. ARMM, in particular, still rendered an OSY incidence of 16.7% in 2012 despite the 7.8% decrease (David & Albert, 2015). Furthermore, dropping out from school remains as a common occurrence in the country despite the efforts of the government annually reaching schools to emphasize the importance of education. As per the study of Machica & Machica (2017), there are cases where the youth or children are driven to complete formal schooling, but are forced to drop due to poverty. Should this instance present itself before the completion of high school, this makes the student disadvantaged and unprepared, by standards, for work. As a result, this could subject them to poverty.

OSY continues to stand as a neglected group that require more support from the government and non-government organizations. Ironically, education is an investment of not only the family but also the government to develop human resources. From such, the youth can acquire cognitive skills, knowledge, and competencies. Failing to shed light on the struggle of OSY overlooks the influence of
human capital development for an economically growing country such as the Philippines. More importantly, education should be innately accessible, as every individual—regardless of age—has the right to learn and hone their own skills.

References: